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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

linquishing the personal touch in selling. The business may grow by millions, but he still plans to spend at least part of his time out there on the floor, selling his customers and insisting that they can have as much fun as he does. He also intends to continue showering them with surprises.

Last Christmas, for example, Sol offered a special sale for major appliance buyers—60,000 plastic Santa Clauses. They were not just ordinary Santas, either. They were 5 feet, 3 inches tall, almost as big as the customers who paid \$5 to haul them away. None was shipped; none was boxed. All had to be carried home, as is. The sight of people all over town lugging king-size Santas is one which Chicago could not easily ignore. Its impact on the city can be summed up in the remark of a girl of 6 whose father had taken his Santa Claus home, put a light in it and set it up on the front lawn. When he had finished, he turned triumphantly to his small daughter and asked, "Do you know who that is?"

Without hesitation the girl replied, "Sure. That's Sol Polk."

Perhaps no salesman has ever achieved a more total victory in image building.

Part 15: Let's Keep the Record Straight— A Selected Chronology on Castro and Cuba (February 1, 1963–February 7, 1963)

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. DON L. SHORT

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 1963

Mr. SHORT. Mr. Speaker, part of my chronology could be termed the "confessional" because various Government officials now began confessing that things had taken place in the Cuban affairs which the public had already learned of through other public statements.

For example, on February 1, Secretary of State Dean Rusk conceded there was indeed a "significant Soviet military presence in Cuba which is of great concern to the United States." Although not news to many, this nevertheless made it official.

Senator STROM THURMOND—southern Democrat—now entered the controversy by statements in a newsletter home as to the military buildup in Cuba. He gave a figure of between 30,000 to 40,000 troops in Cuba, under command of a Soviet general. Secretary Rusk had stated there were 16,000 Soviet troops in Cuba. Pentagon "spokesmen" declared the Senator's information was at wide variance with U.S. intelligence data—and suggested they would appreciate the Senator providing proof of his statements. Although ignoring the challenge he did not change his estimates—instead announced there was between 100 and 200 ballistic missiles, with ranges of up to 2,200 miles, still in Cuba. Pentagon "spokesmen" countered with a statement that there was no evidence of such ballistic missiles in Cuba, and neither was there any evidence of nuclear warheads. Neither won the argument—and neither

gave an inch. However, no one cried "partisan politics" for the obvious reason that the Senator was a majority party member.

An Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs also conceded in a television appearance that it was possible Russian troop strength in Cuba was 10 times what it was before the missile crisis in October—but explained the discrepancy in figures by claiming original estimates had undoubtedly been faulty.

Senator STENNIS, whose subcommittee was to investigate the Soviet buildup in Cuba, called for a firm, hard policy in dealing with Soviets in Cuba—and was joined in this by various majority party members, and others.

Congressman DONALD BRUCE, of Indiana, announced that the Soviets had originally sent 82 to 88 medium-range ballistic missiles to Cuba, which meant obviously that since 42 had been removed, almost that same number still remained as a threat to our security. This, too, was promptly disputed.

Several majority and minority party members now took turns making public statements on how bad the situation really was in Cuba—always being swiftly contradicted by Pentagon "spokesmen" and others.

The now famous "eat your hat" offer was made to Secretary McNamara by Senator KEATING. The Secretary accepted the challenge, although admitting he did not really own a hat but would be glad to provide one since he meant to refute the Senators' statements. He then made his unprecedented appearance on a nationwide television hookup—on orders of the President—and tried to prove by aerial photographs of missile sites that there were dismantled sites and the missiles sent back to Soviet Russia.

Everyone was admonished to "keep our heads" by the President, and when a reporter sympathetically asked what the administration could now do to convince Republican critics that the Russians had withdrawn all offensive weapons the American public gave a collective snort of derision because it was now obvious the administration was having as much, if not more, trouble convincing members of its own party that this was true.

Which all goes to prove that our beloved Will Rogers was wrong when he said:

There is no more independence in politics than there is in jail.

A SELECTED CHRONOLOGY ON CUBA—FEBRUARY 1, 1963 TO FEBRUARY 28, 1963

February 1, 1963:

Secretary of State Dean Rusk conceded that there was a "significant Soviet military presence in Cuba which is of great concern to the United States."

In his news conference, the Secretary of State did not depart from earlier administration estimates of the strength of Soviet military personnel in Cuba.

He said the 16,000 Soviet troops there are something "which this entire Hemisphere must be concerned about." He added that he does not believe there has been a recent

significant buildup of any major proportions in Cuba.

Sharply different views and figures on the military situation in Cuba were given by Senator STROM THURMOND, Democrat, of South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND said there are reliable estimates that between 30,000 and 40,000 troops in Cuba are under command of a Soviet general. A Pentagon spokesman contradicted the statement.

"Behind the brush curtain around Cuba is a formidable Soviet strategic military base," THURMOND said in weekly newsletter to constituents.

He listed an array of missiles, bombers and other armament which he said "indicates the presence of a complete Soviet army, and the inventory normally assigned to a Soviet air army."

A few hours after THURMOND made the remarks public, a Pentagon spokesman told newsmen:

"The information contained in Senator THURMOND's weekly newsletter is at wide variance with carefully evaluated data collected by U.S. intelligence from continued surveillance and other sources.

"The information obtained by our intelligence has been and is being made public to the extent it does not comprise intelligence sources.

"If Senator THURMOND has proof of any kind to support the information he has released, which differs from official intelligence information, the Department of Defense would like to receive the evidence."

THURMOND made public his estimates without identifying his sources. The size of the Soviet force which he said is under command of Gen. C. O. Siakenzio is at least double the 16,000 to 17,000 Soviet military personnel President Kennedy said are still in Cuba.

The Pentagon spokesman contradicted the Senator's figure of 30,000 to 40,000 Russian troops and took issue with his statement that there are in Cuba missiles with ranges up to 2,200 miles.

THURMOND's statement that there are between 100 and 200 ballistic missiles with ranges up to 2,200 miles was countered with Pentagon insistence that "there is no evidence of any ballistic missiles."

The spokesman also said "we have no evidence of any nuclear warheads."

February 2, 1963:

Senator STROM THURMOND, Democrat, of South Carolina, charged the Defense Department with being less than frank about the size of the arsenal.

Brushing aside a Pentagon challenge to supply data on his claim that the island is fast becoming a strategic base for increased Soviet troops and missiles, THURMOND said in a statement:

"The business of gradually and reluctantly admitting more and more Soviet power in Cuba can never bring about a facing up to the situation as it is now.

"Even if the latest admissions by the Defense Department represented all that is in Cuba—which they don't—the most serious questions are raised about our security and our policy on Cuba."

In a newsletter to constituents, THURMOND said he had learned from reliable sources that Cuba is a formidable Soviet strategic base with ballistic missiles and 30,000 to 40,000 troops. A Pentagon spokesman disputed the report.

February 3, 1963:

The United States may be forced to demand that Russia pull its troops out of Cuba just as it demanded that the Soviets remove their offensive missiles and bombers, Senator JOHN C. STENNIS, Democrat of Mississippi, stated.

STENNIS, who heads a Senate subcommittee that will investigate the Soviet buildup, made the statement as the Government prepared

Footnote at end of speech.